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ent, as was the case with the meeting held at the Ohio State University some fifteen years ago. The address of the retiring president, Dr. Charles W. Eliot, who, called from a chair of chemistry to the presidency of Harvard University, has become by common consent our leader in education, is on "The Fruits, Prospects and Lessons of Recent Biological Science." An introductory address will be made by the incoming president, Dr. W. W. Campbell, the distinguished director of the Lick Observatory. Among the vice-presidential addresses before the eleven sections of the association may be noted important subjects, treated by Professor White, of Vassar College, in mathematics; Professor Zeleny, of Yale University, in physics; Professor Lillie, of the University of Chicago, in zoology; Professor Pearce, of the University of Pennsylvania, in pathology; Professor Hanus, of Harvard University, in education, and Dr. Bailey, formerly director of the Cornell Agricultural College, in agriculture.

Eighteen national societies, including the American Society of Naturalists, and the societies devoted to mathematics, physics, zoology, entomology and botany meet at Columbus in affiliation with the American Association. The chemists do not hold a winter meeting this year. The physiologists and pharmacologists meet in Boston; the anatomists in New Haven; the psychologists in Chicago; the philosophers in Philadelphia; the geologists, paleontologists, geographers, anthropologists, sociologists and economists in Washington.

The serious conflict of the year is with the Second Pan-American Scientific Congress meeting in Washington from December 27 to January 8. It was originally planned that this congress should meet in the autumn, but the date was changed and the preliminary arrangements were made without consultation with American scientific men. The officers of the congress, selected presumably by the department

of state, are Mr. Phillips, the third assistant secretary of state, chairman of the executive committee; Mr. Scott, secretary of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, vice-chairman; Mr. John Barrett, secretary-general; and Mr. Glen L. Swiggett, assistant secretary-general. The department of state is probably as ignorant of the scientific condition of the country as the navy department, whose secretary when asked why he had ignored the National Academy, by law the scientific adviser of the government, and the American Association, the great democratic body of scientific men, in selecting the societies to elect members of the Naval Advisory Board, appeared never to have heard of either association. A program in nine sections has been arranged for a "scientific" congress, which ignores mathematics, physics, pure chemistry, geology, zoology, botany and psychology.

However, attempts have been made to rectify the earlier errors. Dr. Welch, president of the National Academy of Sciences, has been made honorary vice-chairman, and Surgeon General Gorgas, Dr. Holmes and Dr. Woodward have been added to the executive committee. The conflict in time does not extend to the second week of the Pan-American Congress, and it is probable that after the adjournment of the Columbus meeting a special meeting of the American Association will be held at Washington. Under existing conditions, it is extremely desirable that friendly relations and cooperation in science should be maintained among the American Republics.

#### THE WIDENER MEMORIAL LIBRARY OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY

THE corner-stone of the Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library was laid on June 16, 1913, and two years later, on Commencement Day, June 24, 1915, the dedication of the then completed building took place. The architect was Mr. Horace Trumbauer, of Philadelphia.

and the general contractors were George F. Payne and Company, also of Philadelphia. The building, of brick and limestone, is in the Georgian style of architecture, and is practically of fire-proof construction throughout. It is in the form of a hollow square, measuring

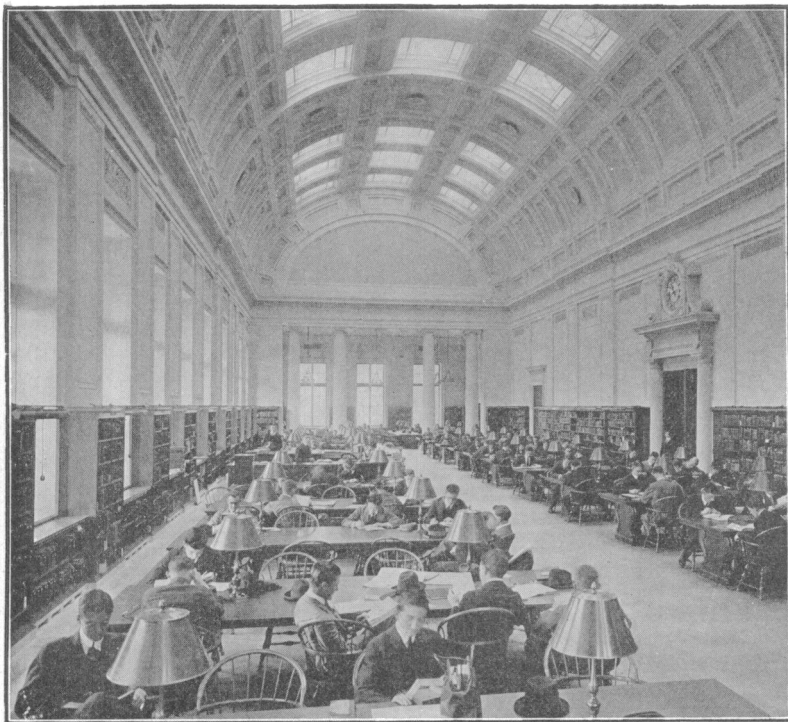
marble. To the right a corridor leads to the director's office and to the room for the library council. Back of this is the treasure room, devoted to the safe keeping of the library's rarest books and specially fitted with locked metal bookcases. In front and immediately



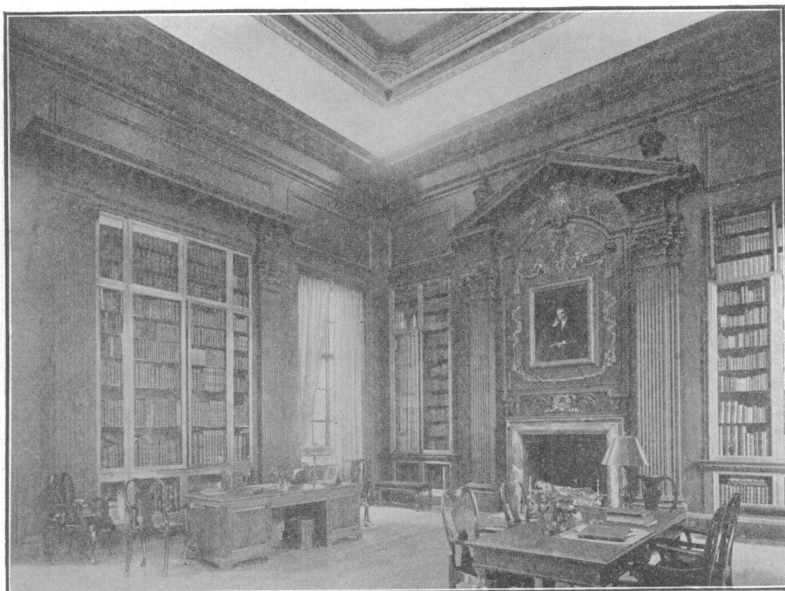
ENTRANCE HALL.

about 200 x 250 feet on the outside. The building faces the north; a broad flight of steps, surmounted by a colonnade of twelve massive columns, leads to the main entrance. The entrance hall, fifty feet long and thirty-six wide, is lined with Botticino marble, with a double row of columns of veined statuary

to the right of the entrance is another large room that is eventually to be used for a select library of standard books that shall be accessible to all comers without formality. A corridor to the left leads to the librarian's office and to the rooms of the order and catalogue departments. In the latter is



**READING ROOM.**



**WIDENER MEMORIAL ROOM.**

contained the official catalogue of the library.

From the entrance hall stairs lead directly to the Widener memorial rooms; one is a reception hall finished in white Alabama marble, the other, finished in carved English oak, contains Harry Widener's library. At the landing in front of the Widener rooms the main stairway divides and leads on each side to the second floor. Here, occupying the whole front of the building, is the main reading room. This room, together with the periodical room adjoining it at the west end, has seats for 292 readers. At the east end, opening both from the hall and from the reading room, is the delivery room where the public card catalogue is placed.

On the third floor, which rests on top of the stacks, are thirty-four rooms used for some of the special libraries, for seminary rooms, and for studies. There is also a large room for the library's collection of maps. Among the special libraries accommodated here are the Child memorial, the Lowell memorial, the French, German and Sanskrit, the mathematical, and those of the Business School and the Bureau of Municipal Research. The collection of theatrical material recently presented to the library by Robert Gould Shaw, of Boston, is placed in two rooms on this floor.

On the ground floor, on the west side, is a special reading room for elementary work in connection with the courses in history and economics. This has a separate entrance and provides seats for 166 readers. The rest of this floor is used for various working purposes. Below this is a basement, which at present serves mainly to accommodate the machinery necessary to run the building, but will eventually provide storage space for many thousand volumes.

The book-stacks, which run round three sides of the building, comprise ten floors, but for the present the two

lower floors are not to be used and are therefore not equipped with shelving. The capacity of the stacks as at present shelved is about 1,433,000 volumes; with closer shelving and the addition of the two lower floors the total capacity should be about 2,200,000 volumes. Besides this, there is room for several hundred thousand volumes in other parts of the building. A distinguishing characteristic of the stacks is the series of reading-stalls along the sides of the principal floors. There are three hundred of these stalls. In addition to this provision for the comfort of students, there are over sixty small rooms that can be used as private studies for professors or visiting scholars.

These facts are taken from a brochure, prepared by Mr. A. C. Potter, assistant librarian, which gives an interesting history of the library and an account of its collections. In 1638, Harvard College received three hundred and seventy books—mostly theological—bequeathed to it by John Harvard. In the course of a hundred and fifty years the library increased to 13,000 volumes. Since then it has grown in a geometrical ratio, doubling about each twenty years, until now the number of volumes is 675,000.

#### SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the deaths of Orville Adelbert Derby, chief of the geological survey of Brazil; of Carl Axel Robert Lundin, maker of many of the largest telescopes in the world; of Raphael Meldola, professor of organic chemistry in the University of London, and of Dr. Henry Charlton Bastian, the distinguished London neurologist, the author also of books on the origin of life.

SIR J. J. THOMSON, Cavendish professor of physics at Cambridge, has been elected president of the Royal Society, in succession to Sir William Crookes.